

infrastructure pilot program in Mississippi which has since helped fund numerous environmental infrastructure projects around the State. Brian also worked to help me secure the final funding necessary to complete construction of a new Federal courthouse in Gulfport. Of course, one of the things of which I know he is most proud is our work to help his hometown, the city of Macon. Through expansion of their water and sewer systems and a new multi-purpose facility to be constructed, we have begun to bring hope to this poverty-stricken area of our State.

Brian is truly one of those unique individuals who has a thirst for knowledge about the issue areas he is assigned. He has spend countless hours over the past 5 years reading news articles, books, papers, academic journals, and industry publications to keep himself apprised of the latest events, issues and concerns relative to his assigned issues. In fact, I would venture to guess that he knows as much as just about anyone with regard to the many historic properties and places in Mississippi that he has worked hard to help me protect and provide resources for. Properties such as the Battle of Corinth Interpretive Center in northeast Mississippi, L.Q.C. Lamar's home in Oxford, and General Pemberton's headquarters at Vicksburg are just as few of those.

Although Brian is leaving Washington, I have no doubt the knowledge he has gained through his work here will serve him well in his new capacity as Special Assistant to the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. In this position, Brian will serve as liaison for the Department with the Federal and State legislatures, as well as local governments throughout Mississippi and particularly along our Gulf Coast.

While we all certainly will miss Brian, I know he is looking forward to returning to our home State and particularly to the warm climate of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. And although fresh seafood, the warm gulf climate, and unlimited fishing opportunities certainly justify Brian's move home, I know this move was compelled by his desire to be closer to family and friends, particularly his younger sister in whom he has expressed enormous pride throughout his stay in Washington.

I wish to thank Brian for 5 years of dedicated service to me and to the people of Mississippi. I wish him the absolute best in this transition and in all of his future endeavors.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Sen-

ator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

On April, 2000, in Keene, NH, a 19-year-old was sentenced to 3 years of probation for carving antigay epithets into a student's back the preceding year.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.●

DR. NORMAN BORLAUG

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, it is my distinct privilege to rise today to pay special tribute to the one of the world's foremost physiologists, Dr. Norman Borlaug. Dr. Borlaug is widely credited as the father of the 1960s Green Revolution, a movement that has continued to cure hundreds of millions of people around the globe from starvation. It is very likely that Dr. Borlaug is directly responsible for saving more lives than anyone else in the twentieth century.

Born in Cresco, IA on March 25, 1914, Dr. Borlaug was raised on livestock farm before attending the University of Minnesota as a biology student and a member of the University's wrestling team. After graduation, in addition to being inducted to the University's Hall of Fame for his wrestling record, Dr. Borlaug carefully balanced teaching while successfully working on the development of several new strains of disease-resistant wheat. The new strand of wheat went on to be widely utilized in Mexico, Pakistan, and India and led to dramatic increases in food production, in turn earning Dr. Borlaug the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970. The Dallas Morning News attests his lifelong dedication to physiology to growing up among the food shortages of the Great Depression: "The sight of farm failures, sheriff's sales and hungry children would stay with him and influence his choices for the rest of his life." Dr. Borlaug added in his own words, "I saw all that unfold. And I think that had something to do with how things turned out."

Dr. Borlaug has certainly earned the right to slow down after his many years of hard work, but he continues, even at age 90, to be a leader in the development and implementation of new technologies, in effect, ensuring the world's most needy adequate food supplies. He often travels to Asia and Africa, Europe and Latin America to help the public understand the value and potential of new biotechnology, while respecting and preserving the environment. In addition to his efforts globally, Dr. Borlaug is helping farmers make a living by leading the fight

against wealthy and well-fed anti-technology protectionists in Europe.

Some would rest after a Nobel Peace Prize and many others would certainly take the opportunity to reward themselves and their family—deservedly—by answering lucrative offers from the private sector. In a world where 800 million children are hungry and even more live on less than one dollar a day, Dr. Borlaug has never stopped fighting, teaching, inventing, or caring. It is clear that Dr. Borlaug is inspired by the rewards his efforts yield for others.

Missouri's renowned plant scientist, George Washington Carver words are appropriate when used to describe Dr. Borlaug: "No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind him distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it." So very few of a talented world, billions strong, have met this test to the extent that Dr. Borlaug has. He has selflessly and tirelessly developed his gifts from God on behalf of millions and billions of desperate people he does not know, and who will never know whom to thank.

I also thank Mrs. Borlaug and the rest of the Borlaug family, on the behalf of the people of the State of Missouri, America, and throughout the world, for sharing Norman's attention for all these years.

Dr. Borlaug will soon gain status as the world's youngest 90 year old. I speak for all in thanking him for his lifelong dedication to agriculture and I sincerely wish him a happy birthday. The world owes Dr. Borlaug endless amounts of gratitude and we will look forward to celebrating his achievements again on his 100th birthday.●

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, in my home State of South Dakota and across America, hardworking men and women tirelessly contribute to the production of our Nation's food supply. These men and women consistently preserve the safety and wholesomeness of the commodities they produce, ensuring America's food security and contributing substantially to our overall well-being. During National Agriculture Week, I would like to take this opportunity to thank and celebrate our Nation's farmers for producing plentiful and healthful harvests, and in the face of so many challenges.

While agriculture can be a very rewarding endeavor, a farmer experiences myriad challenges outside of their control which affect their bottom line. Regardless of commodity or region, today's family farmer is affected by weather conditions, market concentration, fluctuating prices, uncertain foreign markets, and an ever-changing landscape in the agricultural industry. Family farms in my home State of South Dakota, and across America, not only labor to produce our Nation's food supply, but also to preserve our rural heritage. Agriculture is an economic

engine that runs our rural communities, and it is an essential component of a stable and productive America.

Despite these challenges, I am hopeful for our Nation's producers and believe that several factors, including our farmers' own persistence and dedication, will contribute to their future successes in the industry. While we continue to struggle with budgetary constraints, I do believe that we will be successful in ensuring that money is allocated for small and medium-sized producers. We must make certain that our Nation's family farms, which comprise the majority of producers, have sufficient access to agriculture funds. The adoption of an amendment to this year's Budget Resolution, which I supported, would alter payment limitations and cap excessive compensation to large farms. This money would instead be channeled toward worthwhile and essential conservation and development programs, which are beneficial to producers in South Dakota and across the Nation.

I also believe that fair trade is necessary to ensure our farmers get a fair deal and a fair price for their product. Too often, the market price a farmer receives for his or her product doesn't reflect the financial and personal investment that a producer makes during the growing season and throughout the year. I am confident that new opportunities, like the recently announced trade with China involving quality South Dakota wheat, will open new doors and foster additional opportunities. I also believe that increasing awareness of the negative impacts of some trade agreements, including the Free Trade Agreement with Australia, will aid us in developing a firm base to oppose such measures and encourage more productive trading possibilities.

Lastly, I am confident that Country of Origin Labeling, COOL, will greatly benefit our agriculture economy, in addition to increasing consumer confidence and choice. While opponents of the COOL labeling provision were successful in delaying implementation of the law for 2 years, American consumers and producers remain incredibly supportive of mandatory labeling. Every consumer public opinion survey confirms that consumers would pay a modestly higher price for beef if they were certain it was American beef. I contacted the United States Department of Agriculture, USDA, in December, requesting clarification of the department's interpretation of the language delaying implementation of COOL. While I strongly oppose this delay, I also believe the department needs to clarify the rulemaking process. The USDA's response to my inquiries was vague and unclear, which I find unsatisfactory. I intend to seek clarification of the rule pertaining to the delay while also actively working on opportunities to speed up implementation of this law. Along with my colleague Senator TOM DASCHLE, I am pleased to have worked so extensively

on this initiative, and I am confident in the future of this quality provision.

America's farmers produce quality products, which are recognized the world-over. It is essential that we function as a united team to promote these products in today's ever-changing agricultural environment, and ensure that family farmers in South Dakota and across the nation are recognized and adequately compensated for their substantial contributions.●

RECOGNIZING EMILY NEUMEIER AND CHRISTINE BANKS

● Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to congratulate two exceptional high school students from my home State of Florida. Just this March, Emily Neumeier of Tampa and Christine Banks of St. Petersburg were selected from a competitive pool of 800 participants as winners in a nationwide "If I Were President Competition . . ." These two young scholars were among 50 award-winners who each received a \$1,000 scholarship from the contest sponsor Freedom's Answer—a student-run, nonpartisan and nonprofit organization that increases civic participation among youth. I would like to commend the contest organizers, entry evaluators, participants and winners for involving youth in politics and contributing to the well-being of American democracy. Again, I would like to recognize Emily and Christine for a job well done and wish them all the best in the future. Maybe one of them will even be President one day.●

HONORING DONNA PETERSON AND SALLY STOLL

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise here today to publicly honor and recognize Donna Peterson and Sally Stoll for receiving the 2003 Presidential Award for excellence in Mathematics and Science teaching, the Nation's highest commendation for work in the classroom. Donna Peterson won the math award for sharing her innovative teaching approaches with the students at Belle Fourche High School. Sally Stoll won the science award for her knowledge and passion on the subject and the ability to inspire her student's at Vermillion High School.

The National Science Foundation, NSF, administers the awards program for the White House. NSF is an independent Federal agency that supports research and education across all fields of science. Since 1983, the White House and NSF have sought nominations of exemplary math and science teachers from every State. In addition to honoring their achievement, the goal of the awards is to expand the definition of excellent science and mathematics teaching exemplified by Donna Peterson and Sally Stoll.

These two teachers have provided us with excellent examples of quality teaching. They have a passion for their

subjects and dedication to their students. They know how to bring out the very best in every student, in every kind of school. The national award-winning teachers overwhelmingly agree that students frequently respond best to lessons that relate to recognizable phenomena from their own lives, or that allow for hands-on learning. They have observed that an engaging teaching style prompts students to pose their own questions, test their own theories, and arrive at their own solutions, with the teacher serving as a facilitator and guide.

Research indicates that nothing is so important in raising student achievement as a good teacher; not top notch equipment, not Internet access, not family income level. Those things are helpful, we know, but it's the teachers themselves that are the "make or break" link between students and educational success.

United States student performance in mathematics and science has been lagging, and many schools are experiencing shortages of math and science teachers. Donna and Sally are constantly searching for meaningful ways to spark the learning process. In doing so, they will have continued to inspire their students in such a way that it will have enriched them for the rest of their lives. If you are lucky, you'll have a chance to experience at least one such teacher in your lifetime.

I congratulate Donna Peterson and Sally Stoll on this tremendous honor. Their dedication to the teaching field in South Dakota serves as a model for all educators to emulate. It is with great honor that I share their impressive accomplishments with my colleagues.●

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CENTER FOR FIRESAFETY STUDIES

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to pay tribute to the Center for Firesafety Studies at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts as it celebrates its 25th Anniversary.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute was founded in 1865 to support the new industrial economy that was developing in Central Massachusetts in the 19th century. Its founders believed in merging theory and practice as part of the ongoing effort to deal with changing needs of our society. Over the years, the university has earned international respect for its innovations in engineering education and its responsiveness to a changing world.

In the 1960s, fire safety in America was a priority in Congress. The Fire Research and Safety Act in 1968 called for a national study of the issue, which resulted in the landmark report known as America Burning. Among its findings, America Burning emphasized that, "Appallingly, the richest and most technologically advanced nation in the world leads all the major industrialized countries in per capita deaths and property loss from fire."